Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-16 **(Canceled)**

17. **(New)** An EL element comprising:

a light-transmitting and insulating substrate having a main part and an outer connecting part protruding from said main part to allow for connection to an electronic device;

a first electrode provided on said substrate, said first electrode including a first electrode part provided on said main part of said substrate, and a first electrode terminal extending from said first electrode part onto said outer connecting part;

a light-transmitting electrode layer formed on said substrate and being electrically coupled with said first electrode part;

a light emitting layer formed on said light-transmitting electrode layer;

a dielectric layer formed on said light emitting layer;

a backside electrode layer formed on said dielectric layer;

a second electrode electrically coupled to sad backside electrode layer, said second electrode including a second electrode terminal extending from said backside electrode layer onto said outer connecting part;

an insulating layer formed on said backside electrode layer and on portions of said light-transmitting electrode layer not covered by at least one of said light emitting layer, said dielectric layer and said backside electrode layer; and

a shielding layer formed on said insulating layer;

wherein one of said light-transmitting electrode layer and said backside electrode layer is electrically coupled with said shielding layer.

18. **(New)** The EL element of claim 17, wherein

said light-transmitting electrode layer is formed on said substrate so as to cover substantially all of said substrate or substantially all of said substrate except said outer connecting part.

19. **(New)** The EL element of claim 17, wherein

at a peripheral part of said substrate, a non-luminous part is formed, said non-luminous part having no light emitting layer, no dielectric layer and no backside electrode layer formed on said substrate;

a hole is formed through said insulating layer at said non-luminous part and penetrates from said shielding layer to said light-transmitting electrode layer; and

a conductive material is provided in said hole to form a connecting portion that couples said light-transmitting electrode layer with said shielding layer.

20. **(New)** The EL element of claim 19, wherein

said connecting portion and said shielding layer are formed of substantially an identical conductive material.

21. **(New)** The EL element of claim 19, wherein

said outer connecting part protrudes from said main part of said substrate; and

electrode terminals are provided on said main part of said substrate and extend from said light-transmitting electrode layer and said backside electrode layer to said outer connecting part.

22. **(New)** The EL element of claim 19, further comprising

a second insulating layer covering an upper surface of said shielding layer.

23. **(New)** The EL element of claim 19, wherein

said light-transmitting electrode layer is formed on said substrate so as to cover substantially all of said substrate or substantially all of said substrate except said outer connecting part.

24. **(New)** The EL element of claim 17, wherein

a hole is formed in said insulating layer at a luminous part at which said light emitting layer, said dielectric layer and said backside electrode layer are formed;

said hole penetrates from said shielding layer to said light-transmitting electrode layer, and an inner periphery of said hole is covered with an insulating material; and

a conductive material is provided in said hole to form a connecting portion that couples said light-transmitting electrode layer with said shielding layer.

25. **(New)** The EL element of claim 24, wherein

said connecting portion and said shielding layer are formed of substantially an identical conductive material.

26. **(New)** The EL element of claim 24, wherein

said outer connecting part protrudes from said main part of said substrate; and

electrode terminals are provided on said main part of said substrate and extend from said light-transmitting electrode layer and said backside electrode layer to said outer connecting part.

27. **(New)** The EL element of claim 24, further comprising

a second insulating layer covering an upper surface of said shielding layer.

28. **(New)** The EL element of claim 24, wherein

said light-transmitting electrode layer is formed on said substrate so as to cover substantially all of said substrate or substantially all of said substrate except said outer connecting part.

29. **(New)** The EL element of claim 17, wherein

a hole is formed in said insulating layer at a luminous part at which said light emitting layer, said dielectric layer and said backside electrode layer are formed;

said hole penetrates from said shielding layer to said backside electrode layer; and

a conductive material is provided in said hole to form a connecting portion that couples said backside electrode layer with said shielding layer.

30. **(New)** The EL element of claim 29, wherein

said connecting portion and said shielding layer are formed of substantially an identical conductive material.

31. **(New)** The EL element of claim 29, wherein

said outer connecting part protrudes from said main part of said substrate; and

electrode terminals are provided on said main part of said substrate and extend from said light-transmitting electrode layer and said backside electrode layer to said outer connecting part.

32. **(New)** The EL element of claim 29, further comprising

a second insulating layer covering an upper surface of said shielding layer.

33. **(New)** The EL element of claim 29, wherein

said light-transmitting electrode layer is formed on said substrate so as to cover substantially all of said substrate or substantially all of said substrate except said outer connecting part.

34. **(New)** The EL element of claim 17, wherein

said outer connecting part protrudes from said main part of said substrate; and

electrode terminals are provided on said main part of said substrate and extend from said light-transmitting electrode layer and said backside electrode layer to said outer connecting part.

35. **(New)** The EL element of claim 34, further comprising

a second insulating layer covering an upper surface of said shielding layer.

36. **(New)** The EL element of claim 17, further comprising

a second insulating layer covering an upper surface of said shielding layer.